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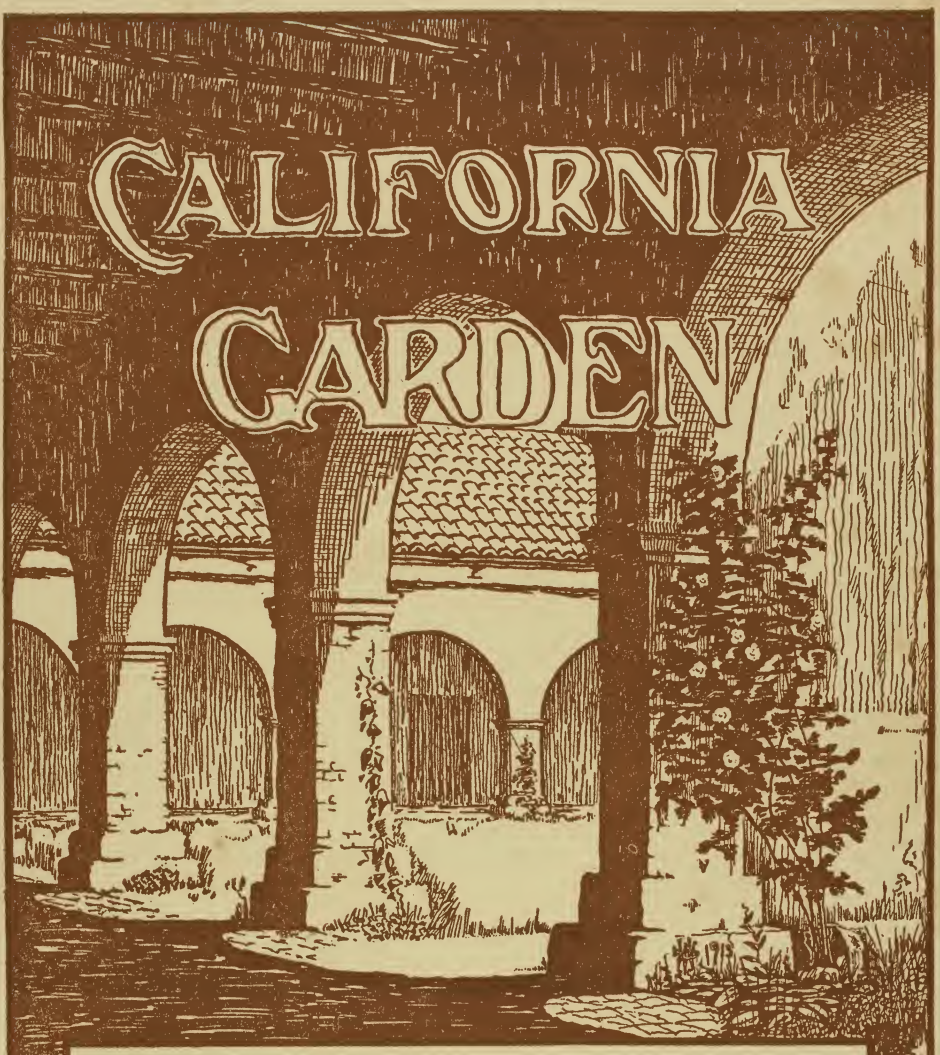
312 Gravilla St.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN



IN THIS NUMBER

ABOUT HONOLULU TREES AND SHRUBS
PRUNING FOR EFFECT
SHOW COMMITTEES
LATH HOUSE

JULY, 1926 TEN CENTS

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The California Garden

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Vol. 18 POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, JULY, 1926 No. 1

K. O. S. GOES TO HONOLULU

Fifty years ago, June, 1876, I spent in the Hawaiian Islands. The ferns in great variety were my special delight and I collected the majority of the different species, which I still have in a good condition of preservation. On this visit I expect to observe the palm, its development in varieties and the beauty of its growth in groups and not in rows or as individual specimens. I hope to secure photographs that will illustrate these facts for the benefit of palm culture in San Diego.

The time is now at hand when many of the old individual palms might be improved by planting small palms beneath them, and thus begin to destroy that "feather duster" aspect of an isolated plant. The time also has arrived for the cultivation of the low-growing or slower growing palms. The time has passed when every one must grow the plants that are asked to duplicate jack's "Bean Stalk'. We are in San Diego to remain—our homes are to be permanent. We are not going to sell out and move to a more favored locality, for there is none such!

This feeling of permanence is a great asset for all gardening development. This idea is also conducive to larger home grounds and I forsee the wise ones selecting an acre or more on the outskirts of the city rather than a lot close in. The auto makes such locations both possible and practical and San Diego offers such a great variety of charming locations. Those who have already begun such homes testify to their satisfaction and have no desire to return to the city proper. The rapid developments of Point Loma, La Jollas' Hillslopes. Pacific Beach's favorable land and hills, La Mesa and the choice slopes of Grossmont and Mt. Helix. And there is Chula Vista's fertile fields and the heights back of National City. A more careful selection of trees and shrubs able to withstand long terms of dryness, more varieties of attractive and hardy ground covers, less lawns and water demanding plants, and more intelligent care of plants will all help to make the larger gardens and home grounds more attractive and with less care and less expense.

Some Conspicuous Plants in Honolulu and Some Conspicuous By Their Absence.

The Gardenia—or Cape Jasmine was in finest bloom in June and July, and the plants in gallon cans for sale at all flower stands. and nurseries, at 50c and 75c. Extra large plants in big tubs, $5.00 to $10.00. There is an extra large variety—the size of a teacup—and one familiar in California was very abundant. They claim that they grow readily from cuttings rooted in water. At several places I saw them in bottles on window ledges—in half shade.

The pure white, low-growing Vinca,—a plant only occasionally grown here—was an excellent border and bedding plant in many gardens. The colored variety has little merit compared with the pure white. It grows so readily from seed that it will prove useful in the new garden.

Bigonia Tweediana, as we know it in San Diego, I saw at one of the United States nurseries. The very common plant, however. was gloriously in bloom, and it has a larger and very glossy leaf, and certainly is a better bloomer. It was particularly attractive through the top of high trees and hanging in festoons of gold from the branches. Being a good seeder and rapid grower we certainly can soon have it established here. The Duranta does well but is not common.

The Acalyphas—a shrub possible in San Diego but seldom seen—are very abundant and so very gorgeous on all the islands. The one finest specimen in San Diego is to the west of the house on the northwest corner of Twenty-fifth and F streets. Last summer I noticed it for the first time and was surprised at its size and beauty. They, no doubt, will not be as thrifty and luxurious here as at Honolulu—but the several varieties are well worth growing.

They were to me a discordant note in many places. Being like the most gorgeous of autumn leaves they did not seem to fit their surroundings of flowering shrubs and vines and trees. I felt the need of a fall condition in their surroundings. One of the native

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trees, called the acalypha was full of beautiful red autumn leaves as well as the abundant fresh green leaves. The The Vitis Capensis—the evergreen South African grape—here has its autumn leaves in the spring—nature's way—with her tropically reared children.

The Stephanotis is a popular and choice vine—because it does not grow so very large—and is fragrant. San Diego should have it also for the same reasons and it will grow well here. It has been done. I saw it in seed and the pods were very large and peculiar, like a small melon.

Hoya Carnosa was a little different from our variety. Flowers almost white and leaves rounder and almost as glossy as the Caprosma. As a hanging basket plant it was a success—as well as a small vine on trellis.

I certainly missed our dependable heliotrope—the border Gazanias, both yellow and orange. Lemon Verbenas are not often seen—and not one Solanum Rautonnetti—our prolific purple blooming shrub.

Streptosolonus are also absent. I saw only one puny plant at 3300 feet altitude on Mani.

The wild Lantana that is a pest is not any of the varieties we grow—and because that plant is in such disrepute—no other sorts of lantana are grown.

Roses are not seen generally in gardens, owing to the ravages of a night feeding beetle. Besides, the soil is not at all clayed, and its peculiar texture, soft, powdery-moisture holding a very dark chocolate-like color; decomposed lava mixed with humus, not at all conducive to the demands of the rose. The climbing Lamarque was the best rose I saw for age and healthy appearance.

An absence of all our various genistas—and geraniums and Pelargoniums were not common. Fuchsia did well only in the higher altitudes and I saw none of our choice sorts. Although I saw some fine begonias—a few sorts in quantities, there is no danger of San Diego losing the laurels she has and can win with Mr. A. D. Robinson's begonias.

As a horticultural emporium—a climate in which a tremendous variety of plants can be grown—I feel surer of San Diego than ever. We need to be more industrious—we need closer contact with the great Botanical centers of the world.

ELECTROCULTURE

Every so often there comes into the limelight some method of adapting electricity to the growing of plants with the argument that electrical current is beneficial in some way or another. It has been tried in a multitude of ways—charging through the ground, charging through the atmosphere, or by electrifying the water in an overhead irrigation system. Whatever the method of introducing the current the thought has been that some stimulation of growth might result. The Department of Agriculture at Washington has been quietly investigating this theory that has held the field of attention for three quarters of a century in one way or another.

The conclusion reached is that "the United States Department of Agriculture has failed to discover any marked reaction of plants to electrical treatment in any of the experiments in which it has had a part." That ought to dispose of the question fairly well because the opportunity has been given for the beneficial effects, if any, to be amply exhibited. At the same time there seems to be an opinion, in England especially, that electrical treatment has resulted in increased yields of crops. Those who are interested in a further minute discussion of the case in all its details will find it in Department Bulletin No. 1379, but so far as the average gardener is concerned he can remain pretty well satisfied that, for all practical purposes, "there is nothing to it."—From Garden and Home Builder.

BACK NUMBERS WANTED

Any subscribers who have back numbers of the California Garden which they are not intending to keep, are requested to notify the Secretary at Box No. 23, and he will arrange to have such numbers called for, as the Association is most anxious to complete a number of files—for which there seems to be an ever growing demand.

PRUNING OF SORTS

By The Early Bird.

I have recently been visiting one of the older gardens hereabouts, not old as gardens elsewhere are reckoned but quite aged for San Diego, and have been vastily impressed by the value of judicious cutting here and there, but appalled at the idea of turning loose a pruner (?) with his little saw and axe.

This particular garden has now magnificent specimens of trees, a Catalina cherry, Eugenias, acacias, etc., that grow along a natural swale. The location is in a pocket between the Hills and the Bay, and from the house there are charming vistas that center on hillsides and bluffs and ocean views and they are all framed by foliage. Now comes the need for the saw and clippers used, Oh so carefully, but nearly all these pictures are threatened with extinction by the various growths, one finds oneself stooping here and there so as to get at a picture that one can barely see but senses is there. Lots of our locations are in the same case and will, if properly opened up give marvellous accent points in the gardens. This garden I speak of has at least four of these in less than a hundred yards and the lay of the land is so favorable that the effect is of single ownership to the hills and the sea.

In clearing the frame for pictures such as these it is absolutely essential that the cutter shall realize what is sought to be accomplished which is to open up without leaving the least sign of having done so. All cutting must be of branches back to junction with other branches, there must be no hair trim. It requires two people, one to do the cutting under the direction of the other stationed at the viewpoint. Years ago I saw the only natural looking cypress hedge of my experience, it was a large one and an old one, and had no appearance of being shorn like a sheep, yet it was confined within the appointed space and the secret of it was that the owner never used hedge shears but pruning shears and whenever a branch grew out he reached back in and cut it off there. I am not expecting any one else to show this much interest in a cypress hedge today when they are almost a thing of the past, but it illustrates a point that I am trying to make regarding this confinement of our garden trees and shrubs within appointed limits.

It is quite natural that having had to grow all our trees, that are yet very sparsely scattered around, we hate to cut any of them down or spare even a small limb, but this is mere sentiment and leads to cluttered up plantings, which destroy the beauty of the whole and hide the charm of individual specimens.

Ten years from now there will have to be wholesale slashing and cutting or the gardens planted today will have pushed the houses off the lots. There are hundreds of young Italian cypresses, planted within a year, within a foot or two of the house, there are thousands of shrubs with a normal spread of ten feet almost as close. Of course these plantings are made for immediate effect but surely it is only fair to give the garden a chance to grow. Another contributing factor to this queer Noah's Ark treatment, you remember those sets we found on the Christmas tree of long ago with the arsenical green trees that sometimes would stand up, is that our houses are placed so close to the street and the gardens are planned from the street and not from the house, in fact without constant pruning the row of shrubbery along the front of the house will soon shut off the view of the garden from the house.

It is, however, quite unnecessary to insist further on the outlook for pruning in the future of the gardens planted today, for it must be an obvious job, but it is an urgent matter that we get ready for this cutting.

In Parks and large grounds pruning is done with the first consideration the proper method for the particular growth, as the plantings are for the most part in more or less large groupings, but in the small home garden while a certain stress must be laid on this the real emphasis should be put on the effect on the whole picture, and it is frequently advisable to severely prune a good specimen because it mars the picture, in favor of an inferior one which is a necessary note therein. Let us consider the case of roses which most every one will have in a conspicuous place in their garden. The rose with the exception of certain climbers and spraying bloomers is not suited to a general garden planting. The sorts with the finest blooms, only produce those to any degree of perfection when pruned for blooms rather than shape, so that rosarians put them in a plot by themselves preferably hidden away, so that they can grow in any old shape that will best produce roses. In a small garden miscellaneously planted, and Oh how miscellaneous some of them are, the rosebush must sacrifice bloom to shape or be an eyesore most of the year. Take our wall covers such as Ficus Repens, absolutely charming in its early stage but becoming a mere hedge against a wall when allowed to thicken beyond a certain point.

I might go on indefinitely instancing places for pruning, but the crux of the matter is How to prune.

Just recently I saw a handsome Eucalyptus

that planted almost into the house had so overshadowed it that the house seemed to sit in the lap of the tree and the owner of both had a case of nerves every time the wind blew for fear the tree would come inside and get in bed with him. He had a gardener who claimed to know just how to prune that tree and he was allowed to go at it. The result was a compromise between a begging cripple in Spain and a muley cow. Not only was the immediate result pathetic and ugly but the future growth would inevitably be in bunches from the mutilated limbs and the grace of the original growth could never be duplicated. The tree has to come right out, which is the one good feature in the massacre as it never should have been there. There is a safe rule to serve as a basic guide in considering whether a growth, be it tree, shrub or plant, should be removed, and that is, Does it look crowded and uncomfortable, of course that is not the right way to express it but you can get the idea, and if you don't I am sorry but can't help it. Now right against, jammed up against this same house is an Italian cypress, a big fine specimen but you can't look at it without feeling that all the skin is rubbed off on the house side and it ought to have a pot of cold cream. I shall not feel happy in that garden till that tree has been put out of its misery. Its case will be that of hundreds of Italian cypress within a few years. Just why has this craze for planting right at the house descended on us, it is good neither for the house or us. Within a short period the style in house color will change and then the painter man will come and do unspeakable things to those growths between his ladder and the wall. Moreover we need the sunlight on our walls, and a few years without it will show our walls need it for themselves.

There is little hope for the individual pruning in our gardens from the professional gardener, unless he have the assistance of the owner. True, many of them are perfectly capable of doing the best for the species, but I have tried to show that this is a secondary consideration. Sad to say only a percentage of the owners can assist simply beacuse they have not really owned their gardens, they have not lived with them enough to know whether they have potential accent points or even patent ones, they have no garden ideas beyond a mowed lawn, a splash of color and cleanly swept cement paths and a water bill within a proscribed limit. Every year, however, sees more gardens that have lover owners, they are easily identified, they will ask opinion about a certain thing over which they have pondered, usually a Phoenix Canariensis that rasps on their growing garden sense and stiffly proclaims, I intend to grow whatever becomes of the other things. These soon develop an eye for effects and they usually stay around when the pruner comes a pruning.

There is another angle to this pruning matter that is going to make it a good business and that is our call for quick growing things, and many a one forgets its usual deliberation when planted here and watered. As a matter of ordinary common sense the selection for the small garden here should be of slow growing things. The majority of front gardens planted in the last two years won't average in size more than fifty feet squared, and that is gardening in miniature. any good size tree will cover that in a few years, why fill it full of naturally sizeable things? For my part I would add, Why crowd up together so that you have only this small space for garden when there is all this wide territory?

THE DANGER OF OVER-TIDINESS IN THE GARDEN

Tidiness in the garden can be carried to an extreme where it is harmful to the garden itself. This is particularly true in the handling of a shrubbery border. Some amateurs will have a fit if they see a few leaves about, whereas they never do much harm and often a lot of good, and therefore should be tolerated at least in the shrubbery border, even if they do not make the place appear as tidy as the owner desired.

With the man who is constantly raking up these stray leaves and converting them into leaf mould later to be applied back to the soil there can be no real quarrel about carrying tidiness to an extreme; but the man who rakes them up only to burn them had better sacrifice some of his tidiness and improve the health of his plants. He must not expect the occupants of the border to flourish and show their best if he constantly robs them of their natural supply of food. The one who does that never thinks about putting back some good manure in place of the food he has taken, for his mind so runs that the manure would seem to him more untidy than the leaves. If you are one of these extraordinarily tidy gardeners who gathers up every stray leaf and never puts anything into the soil, be less tidy and more generous to the plants, who are making every effort to bring gladness into the world.

COMPLETE FILES FOR SALE

Complete files of California Garden can now be had at a very nominal price. These files go back to the year 1909, and each copy is filled with valuable data for garden lovers. Address all inquiries to Box No. 323, San Diego, California.

The July and August Gardens

GARDEN REMINDERS

By Mary Matthews.

This is the main month for seed sowing to make sturdy plants for late winter and early spring bloom.

If obtainable from your dealer, the first batch of Freesias can be put in now, putting them about four or five inches apart, and one or two inches deep, dependent upon the size of the bulb, and if possible give a north location as they will make longer stems, and the flowers will last longer; to my mind Freesias are always a flower to be picked and enjoyed in the house rather than a garden flower. Working a good lot of bone meal into the soil will be a great help to growth. If you care to grow some of the Poppy-flowered Anemones from seed now is the time; get your ground in good condition then sow the seeds in drills in an open, sunny spot where the soil is well drained. Sow thinly in drills so the seedlings will have room to develop. By the end of the growing season the tubers should be large enough to bloom, at least the majority of them, and you can put them where you wish them to bloom. To grow Anemones well, give them a good depth of fairly rich soil, and see that they have good drainage or else they will rot. Ranunculus can also be grown from seed but do not come on so rapidly.

Now in this threatened scarcity of bulbs, wherever bulbs make good seeds we should plant them in a reserve space and encourage growth; most any of the Cape bulbs will flower as soon as any of the hardy perennials—this is a much better use of our time than spending it on continually knocking the agents of the F. H. B. From seeds accidentally spilled last year, I have over one hundred little Agapanthus seedlings—and this year will have hundreds of seeds of Iris Ochreleuca.

All late summer and autumn blooming plants should be looked after from now until the end of the blooming season. Stake your chrysanthemums and keep them well watered and cultivated, thin out the shoots and also buds when they begin to appear. A little weak manure water will be good for them.

Also tie up the cosmos as the stems are very brittle and an afternoon's wind will soon demolish a good planting of it. Keep your

(Continued on Page 13)

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch

Do not forget that while we are past midsummer there are many things you can still plant in the vegetable garden, provided you give them the little extra care called for at a time of year when our summer heat is greatest, with consequent greater evaporation of moisture, and when insect and other garden pests are usually at their height.

Set out your last planting of egg and pepper plants, and if your location is high and warm try a few tomato plants for winter production. The succulent sweet corn is still in season, many people in San Diego having it on the table as late as December. Dwarf beans, such as Burpee's Stringless Green Pod and Golden Wax, can go in, also the English Broad Windsor Bean, a capital large shell bean grown on very strong, upright stalks, and producing beans throughout the winter as large as Limas, of a distinct flavor, which when properly served, with parsley and butter are a decided addition to the bill of fare.

Cabbage plants can be set out, and cauliflower next month, and lettuce, peas, radish and turnips can go in. So you see the list is quite extensive, and provided you give the extra care in watering and cultivation your fall garden will be a success.

Irrigation and cultivation is as essential at this time of year in the flower garden as it is in the vegetable garden, being particular to get the water down to a good depth. Zinnia and Aster plants are still in good season to set out, and salvias also. African Marigold plants set out now will give you fine late blooms also petunia and pentstemon. Sow Calendula, Orange King or the Ball, are both good, Candytuft, Cosmos, Centaurea, Nasturtium, etc. In most soils, particularly the light and well drained, your dahlias will need a liberal supply of water. Do not cultivate close to the plant, but water by basin, using a mulch of well rotted stable manure in and around basin. This will prevent baking, conserve moisture and feed the plant. When cutting your dahlia blooms, particularly if you have not disbudded, cut with plenty of stalk, even if you sacrifice many buds. This will help to keep the bush from becoming too tall.

Talking of Delphiniums, a friend has just lent me "Better Delphiniums", a large size,

(Continued on Page 10)

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

The California Garden

Editor
R. R. McLean
Associate Editors
Miss Mary Matthews
Alfred D. Robinson

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Elite Printing Co. 851 2nd. St., San Diego

EDITORIAL

The same old editor, but only for this number, as the San Diego Floral Association is placing at the helm, Mr. Robert McLean, who was born with more qualifications than we have acquired in years at your expense. We ask for this gentleman as much sympathy and more attention that you have given us. We shall continue, however, to galumph through these pages care free from editorial responsibility and expect to enjoy this more than you may.

Attention is particularly directed to the change in Show dates to September 11 and 12. The reasons for this, as given elsewhere, were considered ample for the Directors and it will be wisdom on your part to acquiesce gracefully. Don't forget to file carefully last month's copy with the Premium List.

We deeply regret that this number has not a page or two from Dahlia folks, they have been so quiet this past six months that we might be excused for thinking they had gone into the real estate business, but one of them has not, for we have been asked to pass judgment on new seedlings, the Coltness hybrid dwarfs, and a strange strain of single cactus spotted like the pard and kind of snaky to observe. Our own Dahlias misbehaved, mildewing badly before blooming in some instances and we cut them off at the root and they have taken the hint and are coming again modestly but cleanly. There is no doubt that our Dahlias are planted in most cases much too early and that the waning days of the year suit them best, however, it is going a bit far to assert in July that now is the time the nurserymen supply green dahlia plants for setting out, as we have just read in gardenng notes in another authority. We do not pretend to know much about Dahlias but there is no need to tell you that.

We have read with a kind of unholy glee how the women of Glendale are seeking to recall a bushel or so of City Fathers for cutting down a row of the oldest Eucalyptus trees in the State. Knowing the Eucalyptus and its cunning little ways with sewers, sidewalks, and such puny works, we realize our sympathies should be with the men and the hatchet, but they are not. We believe that man shall not live by cement alone but needs trees, and think Ocean Beach has lost through the destruction of its one row of good sized trees a heap more than it has gained by another paved street. National City destroyed a monument when it cut down those big Eucalyptus and what shall those returning from Tia Juana do now they don't have a tree for their autos to climb.

The women too are agitating the treeing of the highways of this county but the Supervisors say we spent some funds to do this in the past and the trees all died. Well most anything dies hereabout if not looked after and the fault seems to be that to the moneys spent for planting was not added other funds for caretaking. This treeing of highways is a ticklish job, one requiring a careful survey. There is in this county very few continuous miles that can be planted right through to the same tree for the road runs up hill and down, through sand and adobe, sheltered and windswept, etc. Perhaps we are too hackneyed in our choice of species or we forget that this is California for at this writing we can recall but very few kinds along our highways, in fact only three, Yes four, Eucalyptus, Acacias, Sycamores and by a neighbor to the north Cedrus Deodar. Surely our native oaks ought to have a trial and in places elders and possibly the much despised Tobacco tree. Anything set out should be watered for a season perhaps more

It is not impossible that a reasonable amount of looking forward would dictate the securing of suitable spots along our highways wherein to plant groves to supplement the few natural ones and certainly all these latter should be acquired and preserved. Consider the case of El Monte Oaks, now regarded as such a splendid Public asset that a tablet

bears the name of the Supervisors who were in office when it was purchased, but which does not mention that the agitation for this action was started and maintained by the Floral Association till for the sake of peace the thing was done. Mr. George Marston headed the committee which successfully carried this through and we have personally seen him staggering under the weight of the correspendence he used to gain the victory.

No such effort would now be necessary and we would call attention to the splendid grove of Sycamores just beyond Bonsal that should at all cost and pains be secured for a public park. Then there is Point Loma, almost treeless, being scraped to the hide of brush even. It is said the city owns a Park Space somewhere, if this be so, Why should it not be planted to trees now? This would not mean either elaborate parking plans or the expenditure of much money. Eucalyptus could be planted quite thickly in rows put in with the first rains and left to themselves. We simply instance Eucalyptus, because some ten or twelve years ago we saw them planted on a hillside by F. S. Jennings and today they are a pleasant grove. The small trees were put out from flats and plowed in and this one plowing in raw land was all they ever had, and surprisingly few failed to grow. We do not contend that this would be all the Park would need but do maintain that it would supply the absolutely essential framework of trees and the thinning would be easy and quick as compared to the growing. This tree planting would also be pleasing to the large number of people who still cling to that old myth that there was a forest on Point Loma a century or so back, a story founded on a statement in "Two Years Before the Mast,' about folks from the old hide warehouses at La Playa going upon the hill and cutting wood, a process which was common even twenty years ago, but the wood was the big roots of the brush.

In handing over the blue pencil we frankly admit that we shall miss the office it symbolises, it has been pleasant to shoot at you anything that came in our mind and know you had no comeback that we need bother about. It has been the nearest to fulfilling the wishes of our parents, who desired that we should qualify for the ministry, and which were thwarted by our failure to realize that in future years we would envy those who could get up and talk at, and through, and round the rest of us, while we could not do a darned thing but sit still and take it. Your coming editor is a lot younger, he will probably dispense with the editorial "we" to which we have clung desperately, for it has given us a sort of numerous feeling, but some one ought to warn him that this is one of the few things he will get out of the job. We shall miss the mail and hardly know how our winter fires will get started, we burn wood. We shall not miss the passes on railroads and to shows, for in fifteen years of editing we never had one nor were we ever offered a single one of the supposed editorial courtesies, futher we were never acknowledged as of the cult by any other editor, and we never attended a meeting of the clan. But perhaps this confession had better stop before we really admit something.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING DATE OF FALL FLOWER SHOW

Owing to the fact that September 6th will be Labor Day—completing a three-day holiday, which many San Diegans will want to take advantage of—the date of the Fall Flower Show has been changed from September 4th and 5th to September 11th and 12th.

SHOW COMMITTEES

Please note the change in the date of the fall show, from September 3 and 4 to September 10 and 11.

Dahlias—John Marshall. Phone Hillcrest 4193-W.

Zinnias—Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gibb. Phone Hill. 2947.

Begonias and Ferns—John Morley,. Phone Main 0605.

Garden Displays—Mrs. Geo. Gardner. Phone Bayview 0346-M.

Annuals and Perennials—Mrs. Leonard Ellis. Phone Hill. 0724.

Asters—Dr. Anita Muhl. Phone Hill 0591.

Bulbs—Mrs. Lena Rutan. Phone Hill. 3209-R.

Miscellaneous — Walter Merrill. Phone Bayview 0601-J.

Baskets—Mrs. Fred Scripps, Mrs. B. L. Elliott. Phone Hill. 0378.

Dining Tables—Miss Alice Halliday. Phone Hill. 4041-W.

Professionals—Walter Birch. Phone Main 0842.

Floor Plans and Judges—John Morley.

Chairman Clerks—Mrs. Case. Phone 3-1502.

Information for Entries—Miss Alice Jones, Phone 1482-J.

Naming—Miss Mary Matthews. Hill. 4710-W; Mrs. Hathaway.

Gate—Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Elliott.

Publicity—Mr. Neff Bakkers.

General Chairman—Mrs. Mary Greer. Phone Hill 1550-J.

House Committee—Miss Alice Halliday, Mrs. H. W. Gibb.

Program Committee—Walter Merrill, Mrs. John Burnham, Walter Birch.

Show dates changed to Sepr. 11 and 12.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 15th, 1926.

Last June at the 19th anual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association the following directors were elected:

Mr. A. D. Robinson
Mrs. Mary A. Greer
Mr. Wm. P. Brothers
Mr. Walter Birch
Mr. L. A. Blochman
Mr. A. B. Partridge.

These directors, at their first subsequent meeting, elected the following officers:

Mr. L. A. Blochman, President.
Mrs. Mary A. Greer, Vice-President.
Mr. Wm. Brothers, Treasurer.
Mrs. R. C. Rutan, Secretary.

Upon the lamentable death of Mr. Brothers, our faithful treasurer and director for so many years, Mr. John Burnham, was elected to that office. His sudden and untimely passing was also a great loss to the Association. President Blochmans resignation on account of his removal to San Francisco was read at the January meeting, at which time Mrs. Greer became Acting President and was later elected to that office. Mr. B. L. Elliott has recently been elected Treasurer, and two new names have been added to the Board of Directors: Mrs. John Burnham and Mr. Robt. R. McLean.

Comparisons with last year's figures on membership and subscribers to the California Garden are very encouraging and show that the Association is continuing the steady, healthy growth which has characterized it since its inception—thereby setting it in a class by itself as regards similar organizations here in California.

The Annual Fall Flower Show was held on August 22 and 23, and attracted much favorable comment from all who attended. The gate receipts were $685.90, and the expenses 495.83, leaving a balance of $190.07 profit.

Owing to the destruction by fire of the Civic Auditorium in which the flower shows were customarily held, it was necessary to hold the Spring Show in the Montezuma Garden building, but in spite of this fact, it turned out to be one of the finest exhibits we have ever had, and the following figures will prove that the show was a financial as well as an artistic success. The gate receipts were $780.21 while the expenses were only $332.82, leaving the handsome margin of $447.39 profit.

In addition to these annual Fall and Spring Flower Shows, there have been, during the past year, many informal exhibits and several interesting lectures—notably that of Monsieur Henri Correvon, the worldfamed authority on Alpine flora and rock gardens. The expenses of this lecture, which, by the way, was the only one given by M. Correvon in Southern California, totalled $212.00, an amount of $42 in excess of the gate receipts, but the Floral Association feels that the pleasure given to the large and appreciative audience which attended this lecture, more than made up the deficit.

Of the informal shows, the Dahlia Reception was held in the Floral Home September 15; the Chrysanthemum Show October 22; the Bulb Exhibit and Distribution November 3; the Berried Shrub and Seed Pod Exhibit November 17th, and the Acacia Show March 4. Ferns were shown and discussed March 16, and the annual display of bulbous flowers took place on March 25.

The Association has been very fortunate in receiving invitations to visit several of the most beautiful gardens in San Diego. On the 4th of last August Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Robinson opened the doors of their wonderful lath house at Rosecroft to the Association. On October 20 we visited the delightful gardens of the Naval Training Station as guests of Capt. D. F. Sellers. A few days later Mr. and Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell invited us to visit their marvelous chrysanthemum display in the gardens of their Loma Portal home; and on April 1 Mrs. Herbert Evans graciously welcomed us to her charming Mission Hills garden.

All in all, while this past year has brought many changes—many losses and disappointments—the San Diego Floral Association has met each problem as it presented itself, found the best solution, and has continued along the even tenor of its way as it has done in the past and will contiue to do, let us hope, for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
LINA G. RUTAN,
Secretary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held June 18 for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year. With the exception of Miss Alice Halliday a full board was present. The following officers were unanimously elected:

President—Mrs. Mary Greer.
Vice-President—Mr. Walter Birch.
Treasurer—Mr. B. L. Elliott.
Secretary—Mr. Sidney Hill. Phone Main 0605.

Mrs. Rutan's resignation as secretary was regretfully accepted. Mr. Sidney Hill was appointed to succeed her.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

The San Diego Floral Association held its twentieth annual meeting on the evening of Tuesday, June 5, at the Floral Home in Balboa Park.

The musical entertainment was furnished by Miss Kathryn Thompson, who played several charming selections on the harp.

The meeting was called to order by President Mary A. Greer, who called upon the secretary for her annual report. After this had been read and accepted, Mr. Ernest E. White gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on the beginnings of Balboa Park. Mrs. Herbert Evans next entertained with a stereopticon lecture on Paris, which was very profusely illustrated by photographic slides showing all the worth-while vistas of that wonderful city.

At the conclusion of this lecture the results of the ballotting were announced by Mr. Alford B. Partridge. Out of tweleve nominations for the new board of directors, the following seven were elected:

Mr. Walter Birch
Mrs. John Burnham
Mr. B. L. Elliott
Mrs. Mary A. Greer
Mr. Robt. R. McLean
Mr. John G. Morley
Miss Alice Halliday

After the adjournment of the meeting, refreshments were served by the House Committee to the more than a hundred members and friends who were in attendance.

SUGGESTION TO EXHIBITORS AT THE FLOWER SHOW

There is a satisfactory increase in interest in the garden displays (two classes) of the annual shows of the Floral Association. There are, however, several points which the committee in charge wish to call to the attention of those who intend to enter exhibits in the fall show.

Owing to the limited amount of space it is necessary for those expecting to enter the contest to notify the committee of that fact as early as possible so that required space may be reserved for each and every exhibitor. Moreover the Association would appreciate the furnishing of containers by individual exhibitors and the committee wishes to call attention at this time to the fact that tincans painted green are very satisfactory and attractive.

The ehxibits in this display need **not be in blossom.** Variety counts in the scoring and this point should be taken into account in assembling the exhibit. Notify Mrs. G. W. Gardner, Bayview 0346-M, or Miss Winifred Sinclair, Bayview 0202.

Show dates changed to Sept. 11 and 12.

OUTDOOR MEETING AT ROSECROFT

On the afternoon of July 27 from 2 till 4, the Floral Association is invited to inspect the Begonia Gardens at Point Loma of Alfred D. Robinson. A peculiarly favorable season has contributed to the best exhibition of this flower these famous gardens have ever had The tuberous in great variety are especially fine and the Rex seedlings form a unique display unapproached by anything in the class anywhere. The latest in Streptocarpus show a wide range of color in blues pinks and white with intermediate shades and that gem of a flower the Saintpaulia is also in evidence. A begonia new to this section called Sesslefolia will interest collectors as it is quite distinctive.

Any arrangements that can be made for transportation of those not having autos will be published in the daily press.

ADVOCATES LEAVING BEAUTY AS WELL AS MONEY TO HEIRS

If the city dweller achieves his greatest happiness by forgetting profit and loss for a space and building his environment with an eye to the future, why cannot the farmer add to his own happiness by preserving the natural beauties of his district, or creating new beauties for the future?

These are questions asked by Dr. O. J. Kern, assistant professor of Agricultural Education of the University of California in advocating rural landscape gardening for the beautification of farming lands that will be tilled by countless generations for thousands of years to come.

Professor Kern believes that in addition to the necessity of making a living, a farmer can achieve greater prosperity and greater happiness by surrounding his home with trees and shrubbery, lining his roads in the same way, and protecting such scenic spots as nature might have donated.

And among the protections of nature he lists are regulations against the city visitor who motors out to commune with nature by dumping refuse and destroying flowers and trees, similar to those with which the city visitor protects his public parks at home.

In explaining his views on the matter, Professor Kern said, "Economic success, while basic in any civilization, does not always bring happy homes and a satisfactory life. The outlook for rural democracy is quite discouraging if sunsets mean only mlking time and sunrise the beginning of another day of labor. For three centuries the pioneer has done his best to make ugly the appearance of the earth. If we exist no longer than China has already existed husbandmen have 37 centuries still before them."

Quoting from another authority, Kern said, " 'Of the first importance is it that the race keep its artistic back grounds, so that when we complete our conquest there will be no unseemly landscape.' " and then continuing, "Highways from the countryside leading into town should be miniature parks with trees at proper intervals, with wild shrubs, flowers, and vines scattered between.

"The town and its country environs that co-operate in doing this will add wealth to the price of real estate and better yet, bring about the socialization and spiritualization of community life."

AUGUST WEATHER AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Dean Blake.

Temperature data at San Diego show that midsummer as far as heat is concerned is reached near the middle of August. In other words this is usually the warmest part of the year. Even then the days are not hot, and the nights are uniformly moderate and comfortable. This is realized when we learn that the temperature during the day is below 80 degrees practically all of the time, and that a maximum above that figure is by no means a common occurrence.

As we have no hot weather, we also have no thunderstorms and no rain. In fact, rain during August might be termed an accident. The sunshine increases, and the majority of the days are clear with little cloudiness except in the early morning.

There have been but three days since 1872 when the thermometer has recorded over 90 degrees, and the average highest for the month is 74. The lowest temperature averages 64, giving a daily range of 10 degrees. Sunshine prevails about 72 per cent of the time possible, while the relative humidity remains quite high, 80 per cent.

THE GARDEN

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twenty-four page profusely illustrated paper, the "International Delphinium Review," full of Delphinium lore from apparently all parts of the world. This paper is published at San Rafael, California, and seems to be full (I have not had time to more than glance at it yet) of useful information from real Delphinium cranks, much of it applicable to California. Next month we will give you some excerpts from this paper.

Seed of the famous Wrexham strain of Hollyhock Delphiniums can now be had in San Diego. This is imported seed of true type. This wonderful delphinium grows from 5 to 8 feet high and comes in colors of all shades of blue, purple, mauve, etc., and is called the Hollyhock type because of the immense size of its spikes of flowers.

PLAN TO BEAUTIFY U. S. MARINE BASE

Completion of Planting 50,000 Plants, 1500 Trees, Set for March, 1927.

Improvement of the marine base, the most comprehensive beautification project ever undertaken by a service unit here, will be practically complete by next March when the 260 acres included in the improvement plans will be set out with trees, shrubs and lawns, Brig. Gen. Smedley D. Butler, commanding the base, announced recently.

When the work is completed, approximately 50,000 shrubs and plants, 1500 trees and several million square feet of lawn will be growing at the base, the general said. Almost four miles of main roadways will be bordered with grass plots and planted in trees and shrubs, while stretches back from the roads will be set out in grass.

Approximately 75,000 cubic yards of top soil will be necessary to carry out the beautification. Of this amount about 15,000 cubic yards are now in. Topsoil is needed at the base, the general said, as the soil, mostly dredged material from the bay, will not support plant life.

Work of bringing in the topsoil and planting shrubs and trees is now going on. Some vexatious delays have been encountered because the gasoline loading machine used in loading topsoil on trucks, has been out of commission a good deal, Gen. Butler said. He has hopes of surmounting this difficulty, however.

Approximately 600 trees and 1500 plants and shrubs already have been set out at the base, the general said. At the base's lath house, 14,000 additional trees and plants are being nurtured and will be set out as soon as they have got their first growth.

Work of putting in a sidewalk along the highway frontage of the base is going on at the rate of 100 feet a day and is almost half complete. When this sidewalk is finished grass will be planted behind it and trees set out at 30 foot intervals.

The plans for improvement of the roads in the base grounds call for 20 foot strips of grass on each side, with trees planted in rows 10 feet from the edge of the grass and 30 feet apart. Shrubs and plants are to be set in at the inside edges of the grass.

In areas off the roads grass and trees also will be set in, the general said.—From San Diego Union.

Show dates changed to Sept. 11 and 12.

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INDOOR PLANTS

Hippeastrums

This delightful genus contains upwards of 50 species, but in this short article I shall only consider the hybrids of which there is now a wonderful variety. By patient hybridising with good forms of both species and hybrids, and rigid selection of the progeny, considerable progress has been made, but even now there is still room for improvement, and the hybridist knows there is no finality to his work. The finest varieties are those with broad petals, plenty of substance, fairly large, and more or less round in outline. Great progess has been made in color, but the prevailing shade is red, the self colors being, I think, the most pleasing. Even in a small collection could be seen those with deep, and rosy-scarlet flowers, deep crimson, orange-scarlet, rich dark crimson, white with rose-colored markings, creamy-white with rose veins, and others with various combinations, which render them among the finest subjects for the greenhouse in spring and early summer.

Hippeastrums, or Amaryllis as they are still called in many gardens, can be readily raised from seeds, and it is quite possible for anyone to secure a few seedlings of real merit quite as good as, and perhaps in advance of, existing varieties, while the majority would be worth keeping if judged from the decorative standpoint. Seeds ought always to be procured from a good strain, and it is possible to save one's own seeds. When crossing two varieties select the best forms, and as far as possible cross a crimson variety with another of similar color, and so on. The seeds should be sown in the early spring or February, in pots or pans of light sandy soil, and a temperature of about 65 degrees is needed. A little bottom heat will be of help. When the seedlings are large enough they are potted off singly into small pots, taking care not to bury the tiny bulbs too deeply. They will grow well if plunged in bottom heat, a moist, buoyant atmosphere being maintained, and the temperature kept between 60 degrees and 70 degrees. In some establishments they are planted out in prepared beds, but in private gardens this is rarely possible, or even desirable. Another method of propagation is by offsets, which are removed at the time of repotting, just prior to the bulbs starting into growth. Careful separation is needed to avoid breaking the roots to any great extent, and then each offset is potted off singly into small pots. If they are overdone in this direction the roots often decay, and it is a long time before they get established. Where possible the pots should be plunged in bottom heat for a few weeks, and be treated similarly to seedlings, but in both cases careful watering is essential. A suitable rooting medium for Hippeastrums consists of good quality fibrous loam three parts, and one part sweet leaf-mould, to which is added a sprinkling of sharp sand. A 6-inch potful of fine bone meal can be added to every bushel of the mixture. The pots should be clean and well drained, over which is placed a thin layer of loam fibre. Repotting should take place just before the bulbs become active.

I have made two references to bottom heat, but when we come to deal with bulbs of flowering size, or those approaching that stage, I have no hesitation in saying that bottom heat is not necessary unless the plants are required to produce flowers early in the year. They can be treated as greenhouse subjects, and at no time is great artificial heat needed.

During the winter the plants are rested in a dry, cool greenhouse, and with the advent of the New Year signs of life will be apparent. A few will begin to push up a flower-spike. These should be top-dressed with fresh soil, removing as much of the old as possible without injuring the roots, afterwards placing them at the warmest end of the greenhouse unless a warmer house exists, when they will be in flower a few weeks earlier. The roots should be soaked for an hour or two in tepid water. From time to time other spikes will appear, but in the spring the remainder should be thoroughly soaked, and the plants given a light position in the greenhouse. Here the majority will bloom, and afterwards the seasons growth is made. Examples that have filled their pots with roots will benefit by a weekly application of liquid cow manure or a light sprinkling of Clays Fertilizer. Keep the roots well supplied with water, and see that the plants get plenty of light. When the foliage begins to show signs of maturity the plants can be removed to a brick pit or frame fully exposed to the rays of the sun. The water supply is reduced gradually, and the bulbs will be well ripened by the approach of winter. The ripening of the bulbs and generous treatment during their period of activity are important factors in the cultivation of Hippeastrums. It is a group of plants no amateur with a greenhouse need fear taking up; in fact I know of one instance where a pot of bulbs blooms almost annually in a cottage window.—T. W. Briscoe in Popular Gardening.

Show dates changed to Sept. 11 and 12.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

After this article, my stuff will have to pass inspection by a master in inspection, so I am going to say several things that may not strictly belong to this column and be as discursive as the mood suggests.

From my visitors I gather that so far I have failed to move from its entrenched position, the idea that Begonias are very tender plants. This one says, I have no luck with the tuberous, another, the Rexes won't do for me, etc., etc., and a multiude explain that they have no lath house and therefore must simply look at Begonias growing for other folks and sigh and sigh. Admitting it to be a fact that a lath house presents possibilities in Begonia culture that its absence denies, yet this part of the world has thousands of Begonias in large variety growing in the open garden, mostly in protected situations, but in many cases exposed to rather rough treatment by the elements. Naturally I advocate the building of a lath house which is fast developing from a mere lath protection for plants to a summer outdoor living room. It is acting as a four wheel brake on lath house progress that the very name conjures up, not a lovely protected garden but a hideous lathed space which must be hidden or disguised at any cost, so that only those deeply inoculated with the lath house virus will consider the incorporation of such in their plans for a home. There is no longer any excuse for being without a lath house on the score of architectural disfigurement. We now know that to be effective a lath house must be of a certain size, we ought always to have recognized that its dimensions should be equal to containing a sitting, living, enjoying space. Given this area and a roof of different levels, the sides may be of any construction that will fit with the architecture of the house, in fact solid sides towards the prevailing wind are almost necessary nad every side should be solid for from two to three feet up. I dare to venture a prediction that ten years from now a large percentage of the plans for residences will include a lath house as a summer lunch and entertainment feature.

A few words as to detail, just to get them off my chest, not in any hope of an immediate rush in lath house construction. The roof should be flat, because with the laths running North and South such gives the most even distribution of sunshine, some everywhere some of the time, none in any place all the time. The shape should be as nearly a square or circle as possible because so the center is farthest removed from the outside, and for this same reason a generous size is advocated. A long, narrow house is approximately only as effective as the square of its narrow dimension because the outside atmosphere can penetrate through that way.

Even in such an even climate as San Diego has, there are differences in the year. For some four months of what for lack of invention we call our winter, our lath houses need all the sun that can penetrate between lath spaced an inch apart, during most of the remainder further modifiction is indicated, this I get by the use of thin sheetng, but if I could afford it I would experiment with colored stuffs, in fact I have always dreamed of a living section in a lath house draped with stripped silk like an Arab tent. There is nothing that gives such good color values as light through fabric and in Europe, Halls for Flower Shows are frequently ceiled with cloth in billowy effect.

We are hearing a lot about Ultraviolet rays of the sun and it has been suggested that glass stops these. I don't know anything about these rays, but my experience with a material that was said to let them through and yet keep out rain was in favor of a degree of belief and I should have been a big booster for the said stuff if it had fulfilled the contract about moisture, but it did not. A glass roof, however heavily shaded is not to the liking of the Begonia family for four months in the year, June to September, but it is tthe only possible thing over the living part of a lath house and as this part would contain mostly furniture and such and would be more comfortable shaded with fabric and would be open to the rest of the house, the growing feature might be overlooked.

I have said that the architecture of the sides of the lath house may conform to that of the dwelling and I meant it, but there is grave danger in acting too freely along this direction, danger of the house becoming more a desideratum than the plants. Of course this is merely a personal view but I see no use or excuse for the lath house unless the plants come first.

I am quite aware that almost all of this I have said before, much of it many times, but my excuse is that the recent articles in this magazine about a real lath house for Balboa Park have created so much interest and talk that I deem it wise and fitting to inject these remarks into that talk.

Having mentioned Balboa Park in connection with a lath house I would further remark anent it. I regard the lath house in our midst as much as a shelter for the Begonia family as a garage is for an automobile. Allied plants normally take a place in our

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Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

THE GRAY GOOSE SAYS

We have a little turtle at our house. His name is Diogenes because he lives in a bowl for a tub and likes to sit in the sun. Here the parallel ends. For he carries no lantern to find an honest man, and from the lack of confidence he displays, even in the hand that feeds him, one concludes he must think "there's no sech animul".

We have discovered our Diogenes will eat snails. The only drawback to a very useful career is that he cannot yet tackle a snail whose shell is larger than an army bean. You see his own shell is just the width of a dollar. Now if a young turtle will greedily eat little snails a mature turtle would certainly eat large snails.

Somebody better import turtles to police our gardens. They surely would be more useful than the cats that kill the birds who eat the bugs that spoil the gardens. Also no self-respecting turtle would ever prowl around at midnight wailing serenades. I move we deport "Sis Cat" and import "Brer Terrapin."

GARDEN REMINDERS

(Continued from Page 5)

cannas and gladiolus well watered with light cultivation afterwards. If you want to know what fine cannas are, go and see those in Balboa Park, it is a wonderful display of them.

Make basins around your shrubs and fill them with water, letting it soak in well, then cultivate afterwards, and a mulch of manure will be good.

Show dates changed to Sept. 11 and 12.

All kinds of

WATER LILIES

and Other Water Plants

MRS. W. S. THOMAS

1616 Cypress

½ Block West of

Park Boulevard

Special
Hot Weather
Sale of Plants

Just to stimulate an interest in plants during the hot weather, we have cut the price down to where every one can buy. WE HAVE THE MOST COMPLETE COLLECTION OF FANCY FERNS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. They are all on special at 35c each in medium sizes. Tree ferns from $1 to $5. Thousands of begonias, including 300 Rexes, all go at 25c. 20 varieties palm trees, 50c and up.

In our general nursery department all outdoor ornamental shrubs, trees and vines are 25c each regardless of size or value.

FERTILIZER — Cow fertilizer, 50c; sheep fertilizer, 75c sack. Cottonseed fertilizer, 75c sack.

Cash and carry. No phone orders.

Note: This is a bonifide sale where prices are cut from 25 to 75%. No we are not going out of business nor forced to vacate. We are just "cleaning house". Sale ends August 15.

Open Evenings Till Dark

THE NATIONAL FERNERY,

1223 E. 18th St., National City.

(Continued from Page 12)

lath houses, but it is the Begonia that makes them unique in garden development in this country, if not in the world.

Only a small percentage of our own people realize the wide diversity in both habit and color of bloom of the Begonia family, and a still smaller number would visualize it as needing a large, a very large lath house for its proper exhibition, and a mere handful know that with the combination of plant family and a suitable house an ehxibit could be maintained in Balboa Park that would be so admirable and unique that it would form a legitimate news item in every gardening paper in the world. Today San Diego has more representatives of the Begonia family than any other place in the world. I am stressing this IN THE WORLD feature and going to add another item and that is that quite possibly NO OTHER PLACE IN THE WORLD can have such an exhibition of Begonias. I would justify this last supposition by stating that with few exceptions the Begonia family is not a greenhouse plant, it wants filtered sunlight and temperate weather with a fair degree of moisture, it dislikes heat almost more than cold and cannot stand dry heat in particular and must have perfect ventilation. These conditions are to be had to perfection under lath in San Diego. It would be absurd in me to pretend that my collection of Begonias at Point Loma are negligible, but I only drag it in now in order to be able to state that it has been visited and closely inspected by many of the foremost horticulturists and florists from all over the world, as well as innumerable travelled folks and without exception they have said they have seen nothing in its class. Frankly this is a plea for the Balboa Park Lath House so that a real Begonia garden may be another wonderful feature in that beauty spot.

It is only fair that those who have waded through the foregoing lath house rhapsody should find at the end my usual cultural remarks.

The exceptionally cool weather with cloudy forenoons has rather complicated the watering end in the lath house, I have found that it was not safe to conclude that things did not need water because the sun had not been on the job all day, on the contrary most things have grown very rapidly and used up water quickly. Too bright a sun in checking growth apparently almost conserves water. The Tuberous have continued their triumphant march to a record and such a growth as theirs needs lots of moisture. They are now making roots very fast, and wlil need immediate repotting if in small receptacles. Like almost all Begonias these like cool roots and so potted specimens should have the pots plunged in the ground or kept cool and moist with something around them. I have been best pleased by putting the pots in a larger

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

Cut Flowers

Floral Designs

1115 Fourth Street *San Diego*

Broil Your Breakfast Bacon on an Electric Grill

Frying your breakfast bacon is more or less boiling it in its own fat.

When broiled on an Electric Grill the heat is applied direct to the top side of your bacon —the fat which falls below does not touch the meat again.

BROILED BACON RETAINS ITS FLAVOR.
BROIL IT ON AN ELECTRIC GRILL.

San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric Company
857 Sixth Street
Franklin 4121
Byllesby Engineering & Management Corporation.

container and planting Helxine around them. Anyway the real magnificence of the tuberous Begonia is lost when they are on the ground level and I put all of them up on benches or stands. A really good specimen on a standard three feet high with a base of green Helxine is a joy indeed. In displaying them don't crowd them, learn the efficacy of restraint, try one of your best out by itself like a pet picture. I have often thought that our lath houses should have a display salon where one or a few of the choice specimens were placed to the best advantage. A place where with a kindred soul one could sit and really absorb a little of the beauty of these nature pictures. Possibly have different colored backgrounds to a frame so that the really fit one could be found. The splendid yellows backed with blue, the pinks with grey, etc. Think of a picture gallery on these lines in that lath house we will have in Balboa Park, but I don't want to go back there now.

You will remember I promised to report about Frau Helene Harms tuberous which I fatuously imagined was the end of my search for a yellow fibrous cross. The Frau has rested from her journey and is blooming, she is a very small, double tuberous with a long, narrow leaf like the Lloydii and I cannot believe she will be of any value. However, another hope has dawned, there is a yellow of the Weltoniensis type that a San Diegan possesses and calls Schnitzeri because, well you know what to schnitz means. From this many seedlings are growing. Speaking of seedlings some of the Lloydii type planted in January have now buds showing color, much the quickest action yet in my experience.
time and muscle to make up a compost with it. its use on the top of Rex pots but have lacked time and mucle to make up a compost with it. I sent an expedition over the Fourth to our mountains in search of leafmould, I got some, but how painfully, the truck had two blowouts, the engine grew lame in three of its four cylinders and the driver finally spent the night of the fifth sleeping on the load half way home. I am investigating freighting by aeroplane.

From now on I shall start collecting seed. To those who desire to save some seed for their own use I would urge collecting from only their very finest plants. With most Begonias hand hybridizing is almost necessary, of course excepting the bedding type, there is no need of the camels hair brush technic, select the seed parent and carry to it the pollen bearing flower you desire to use. By no means all male flowers are pollen bearers so I always rub my thumb nail across to see if pollen is present and free. In cases of a cross it is advisable to remove all male flowers from the seed bearing plant but there seems to be little natural cross-fertilizing.

I get my share of queer customers but the cake bearer came the other day, she, yes it was that kind, wanted to know if I would set her up in opposition to myself, of course in a small way, teach her the name of all the different kinds of Begonias and post her in the culture of each, if I would do that she would consider buying a fair-sized plant of each so that she might start making cuttings right away. I have an impression that I said I would, now what do you know about that.

Burbank, though dead won't let me alone. I was asked last week if he had ever been to see my Begonias, and the asker, a personal friend of Burbank, seemed surprised he had not. But I don't drag him in here to say that, but to relate that this friend said he knew that Burbank was not responsible for the Alice in Wonderland stories that were published about him, in fact, he asked him once why he did not contradict them, and he was told that the reporters were out for items and when they could not get them they manufactured them and it did not matter anyhow, and then the friend said I know Burbank was a modest man and an intense lover of nature, I was at a dinner once when he was the chief speaker, every one expected he would talk about the wonders and the mysteries of plant growth, but he did not, he talked about babies.

BROKEN FLOWER POTS

The breaking of flower pots is probably the commonest accident that happens in garden routine, unless, perhaps, it be the cutting in two of worms, and yet how differently we regard the two events. The gardener, when he digs a worm in half, remains perfectly calm, reflecting, if he reflects at all, that he has caused two worms to turn when only one had turned before. Am I, by the bye, biologically correct in believing that a severed worm becomes two worms? I have been told so, and have taken it on trust. A. P. H. touches on the question in his "The Wherefore and the Why," but I should value the opinion of the Rev. Hilderic Friend in the matter. The feelings of the gardener and the garden owner are quite otherwise when he breaks a flower pot. Flower pots—like braces—belong to that class of cheap useful articles that a man hates having to buy, and when he breaks tthem he will so far forget himself as to say tush in his heart. The garden boy, on the other hand, keeps a firm upper lip and throws the pieces under the bench. And the garden boy is right every time, though dont, for pity's sake, tell him that I said so. He has converted a useful article that one hated buying into an extremely useful article which no one would ever dream of buying. "Crocks for the crocking

of pots" you say. Well, yes, that is one use, though it is not what I am getting at. It is a curious fact that nothing half so good as broken flower pots has ever been invented for draining whole ones. But the demands of drainage have never yet kept pace with the destructive industry of garden boys. Probably they never will. And so the crock heap grows, which is a wicked waste of one of the most valuable materials in the whole horticultural pharmacopoeia. Make the folks who broke the pots go further, cause them to do the thing properly and smash the crocks to grit and powder, and you will have one of the grandest of all ingredients for potting mixtures. I have come to the conclusion that the extraordinary success that my late foreman, Mr. Cecil Davies, had in growing Kabschia Saxifrages when he was with me prior to 1914, was largely due to the free use he made of flower pot grit in his soil confections In those days we had a special machine like an enlarged coffee grinder for grinding up our crocks. It was a special job for wet days, and we produced, and used it, by the barrelful. It was a wonderful machine, though turning the handle was tedious work. I have always felt that its presence on the nursery exercised a restraining influence on the too light-hearted handling of pots. In the course of time the steel molars of the grinder became worn, and it could no longer do its work properly. I have made several attempts to get it fitted, so to speak, with a dental plate, but without success, and for some time the use of crock grit has lapsed. Recently I saw a similar machine advertised and bought it, but it is not efficient. By an enormous expenditure of boy power only a feeble output of material is achieved. If anyone can introduce me to a really efficient crock grinder I shall be extremely grateful. When only small quantities of grit are needed it is possible to smash up enough crocks by hand, or, rather, by hammer, or, on a rather large scale, with an iron-headed rammer. For this hammer or rammer work the crocks should be broken on a hard flat surface. A flagstone is excellent. A useful size for crock grit is from the bigness of split peas down to dust. The dust what one aims at. Its action in a potting mixture, is, of course, almost, if not entirely, may well be used, though the sharp grit is mechanical, but I know of nothing so good for making a compost free, and sweet, and open When the right amount is used the soil will grit sharply in the hand with a curious feel which the gardener knows is good.

When crock grit is plentiful I like, too, to put a generous sprinkle of it over the drainage crocks at the botttom of the pot. I think it makes the drainage super-perfect, and the roots of a plant like to get down and quest among the sweet porous grit. I trust that all who read this article will, when they break a flower pot in future, remember that they have taken a step in the direction of a valuable potting ingredient, and so refrain from saying tush—even in their hearts. And if a rule be made that he who breaks a pot shall reduce it even unto grit, then plants will benefit and the crockheap will remain a reasonable size. —Clarence Elliott in Garden Illustrated.

MOON DOES NOT CAUSE WET OR DRY WEATHER

One of the commonest and likewise one of the most unreasonable weather supersititons, says the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture, is the belief that if the horns of the new crescent moon tip downward, it is a "wet" moon, portending rain.

The position of the lunar crescent depends upon the angle that the moon's path makes with the horizon, and on any given date it is always the same in places having the same latitude. If this weather sign were trustworthy, the same kind of weather, either dry or rainy, would prevail on any given date throughout a belt of latitude extending entirely around the globe. Of course there is no such uniformity of weather in relation to latitude. In the temperate zones, where the weather travels from west to east, the greatest contrasts are likely to be found along parallels of latitude rather than meridians of longitude.

Near the Equator the position of the young moon never makes an angle of more than 30° with the horizon, and it is generally in an even more nearly horizontal position, so that in a part of the world notorious for regions of heavy rainfall, the moon is, according to the proverb, always a "dry" one. The final absurdity is the case of the crescent moon as seen from the north and south poles, where it is always what the proverb describes as "wet', for at those places the line joining the tips of the crescent always makes an angle of less than 25° to the vertical; yet the polar regions are characterized by so little precipitation in the form of rain and snow that they rank among the arid regions of the globe.

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